

In an area of the State struggling for economic advancement, John made sure the college met the unique needs of Appalachian families. That meant making sure the college was readily accessible to area residents looking for the resources they needed to better their lives. With eight satellite branches, south central Kentuckians of all ages and from all walks of life can take advantage of the educational and job training opportunities at Lindsey.

In addition to academic excellence and steady financial growth, John always looked toward improving the quality of student life. One way he did that was through athletics. With 14 athletic teams and a men's soccer team that has won back to back NAIA national championships—the first Kentucky college to do so in 45 years—the college has struck an important balance between excellence in academics and student life.

Clearly, John's successes came with the help of hundreds of hard working colleagues, a community receptive to the college's needs, and a student body that took pride in their college's successes. But there can be no doubt that John's leadership pulled those forces together and created something really wonderful—something all Kentuckians can look on with pride.

Mr. President, I know I am not alone in wanting to thank John for leaving the college not only with a firm foundation from which to keep building, but a standard of excellence that will serve generations of students and faculty for years to come.

THE MINNESOTA FLOODS OF 1997

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I just want to take a few minutes today to discuss the devastating floods that are paralyzing much of my home State of Minnesota. Most of the Nation knows we are experiencing some of the worst flooding in our history this week, and due to the severe snowfall of this past winter, damage is expected to surpass that of the disastrous 1993 floods.

Not only are Minnesotans fighting against the rising floodwaters, but they are doing it in the wake of a blizzard that brought snow, ice, and bitterly cold temperatures to our State this weekend, as well. It has truly been an ordeal—my heart goes out to those who are working desperately to save their homes and land, and my thanks go to the thousands of Minnesotans who have stepped forward this week to help their friends, families, and neighbors. It is reassuring to know that our communities share a collective heart, and can be counted upon to come together during tough times.

Now that President Clinton has approved our request that Minnesota be declared a disaster area, Federal money for flood victims is available in 21 Minnesota counties. That will enable cleanup efforts to get underway, and help families and individuals whose homes and property have been damaged or destroyed.

As of this past Monday, Minnesota Gov. Arne Carlson had activated more than 1,000 of the state's 11,000 National Guard troops to assist with sandbagging, emergency evacuation, and other flood-related duties. The Guard has been tireless in their desire to help and we thank them for that as well.

The disastrous floods have severely disrupted the lives of many, many Minnesotans, whose primary concern now is to ensure that their families and communities are safe, with adequate food and shelter. That being the case, I have requested that Commissioner Richardson of the Internal Revenue Service extend the tax filing deadline for those taxpayers living within the disaster area. Considering the many challenges Minnesotans will face in the next few weeks, cleaning up and rebuilding their lives and communities, extending the April 15 deadline is crucial. I hope Commissioner Richardson will act immediately to grant the extension.

Mr. President, we are used to harsh winters in Minnesota, but even we Minnesotans have never seen anything like this. Earlier this winter, heavy snows resulted in a Presidential disaster declaration for snow removal in 55 Minnesota counties. That rapidly melting snow has now caused extensive flooding on virtually every river and tributary in the State. This past weekend, the situation was compounded when Minnesota was hit by a combination ice storm and blizzard. Freezing rain and snow downed countless utility lines in northwestern Minnesota, leaving more than 50,000 residents without power. Some power has been restored, but it is estimated that other areas may be without power for another 7 days before repairs can be completed. The weekend storm, along with the severe snows of this past winter, will make flooding this spring some of the worst in our history.

For communities along the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers east and south of Montevideo and south of Anoka, which includes the Twin Cities metro area, the worst flooding is on the way and record and near-record crests are expected there. The same is true along the north-flowing Red River along the Minnesota-North Dakota border. In Ada, in the State's northwestern corner, three-quarters of the town's 1,700 residents have been evacuated from their homes.

The flooding has been an exhausting nightmare for those who are in it, and agonizing for the rest of the Nation to watch. Yet, we have been inspired once again by the people of Minnesota, who have rallied together for their communities as they always do when tragedy strikes.

Young and old are working side by side to save their communities, filling and hauling sandbags, feeding those who have lost their homes and finding them shelter, and making sure the volunteers are well cared for. I read the comments of Marvin Patten of Granite

Falls, who does not have flood insurance and whose living room is flooded under 18 inches of water. He said, "At first I sat and cried, but after a few days you realize that we will manage."

Shortly after the mayor of Granite Falls pleaded for sandbagging volunteers, he told a reporter that "everybody in town showed up. Just like that. Amazing. I am stupefied." Now, as I read comments like those and speak with Minnesotans who live in the flooded areas, I cannot help but think it is during critical times such as these that we finally understand the importance of community, of neighbor helping neighbor. Those are the qualities that make us Minnesotans.

I want to take this opportunity to thank God for the mercy he has granted and the blessings he has bestowed upon our families and communities. It is within His strength that we find our own.

Mr. President, I heard the remarks of my colleague from Minnesota earlier this afternoon, and I appreciate his words and his efforts on behalf of the people of our State.

We stand together with our colleagues from North and South Dakota, who are facing devastation in their States equal to our own. When disaster strikes, we are not Republicans or Democrats. We are representatives of the people, and we will do whatever we must to protect our citizens when their lives, homes, and property are threatened.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, April 8, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,384,125,088,631.94. (Five trillion, three hundred eighty-four billion, one hundred twenty-five million, eighty-eight thousand, six hundred thirty-one dollars and ninety-four cents)

One year ago, April 8, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,134,564,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred thirty-four billion, five hundred sixty-four million)

Five years ago, April 8, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,893,440,000,000. (Three trillion, eight hundred ninety-three billion, four hundred forty million)

Ten years ago, April 8, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,288,725,000,000. (Two trillion, two hundred eighty-eight billion, seven hundred twenty-five million)

Fifteen years ago, April 8, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,061,093,000,000 (One trillion, sixty-one billion, ninety-three million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion (\$4,323,032,088,631.94) (Four trillion, three hundred twenty-three billion, thirty-two million, eighty-eight thousand, six hundred thirty-one dollars and ninety-four cents) during the past 15 years.